

BX
~~about 100 microns.~~

24. (Twice Amended) A method of extrusion processing a mixture of thermoplastic materials, said process comprising:

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introducing at least two thermoplastic polymers into an extruder barrel, the at least two thermoplastic polymers comprising a first thermoplastic polymer and a second thermoplastic polymer, and wherein the first thermoplastic polymer has a higher percent crystallinity than the second thermoplastic polymer;

heating the mixture of thermoplastic materials to provide a molten blend thereof;

contacting the molten blend of thermoplastic materials with a blowing agent; and

subjecting the blend to conditions sufficient to create a thermodynamic instability in the blend to foam the blend, wherein the foamed blend has a percent crystallinity lower than the first thermoplastic polymer;

wherein the foamed material formed by said method has a plurality of distinct void spaces formed therein having an average size ranging from above about 0 to about 100 microns.

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Please cancel Claims 17-21 and 40-44 without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

73. (Amended) A method of producing a foamed material, said method comprising:

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contacting a mixture comprising a first thermoplastic polymer and a second thermoplastic polymer with a blowing agent comprising a surfactant, wherein the surfactant is a copolymer selected from the group consisting of a graft copolymer, a

block copolymer, and a random copolymer, wherein the first thermoplastic polymer has a higher percent crystallinity than the second thermoplastic polymer; and

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subjecting the mixture to conditions sufficient to create a thermodynamic instability in the mixture to foam the mixture, the mixture comprising the first and second thermoplastic polymers having a percent crystallinity lower than the first thermoplastic polymer;

wherein the foamed material formed by said method has a plurality of distinct void spaces formed therein.

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98. (Amended) A method of extrusion processing a mixture of thermoplastic materials, said process comprising:

introducing at least two thermoplastic polymers into an extruder barrel, the at least two thermoplastic polymers comprising a first thermoplastic polymer and a second thermoplastic polymer, and wherein the first thermoplastic polymer has a higher percent crystallinity than the second thermoplastic polymer;

heating the mixture of thermoplastic materials to provide a molten blend thereof;

contacting the molten blend of thermoplastic materials with a blowing agent comprising at least one surfactant, wherein the surfactant is a copolymer selected from the group consisting of a graft copolymer; and

subjecting the blend to conditions sufficient to create a thermodynamic instability in the blend to foam the blend, wherein the foamed blend has a percent crystallinity lower than the first thermoplastic polymer;

wherein the foamed material formed by said method has a plurality of distinct void spaces formed therein.
